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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/523,044	03/10/2000	Takao Chihara	1503.63657	4484

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EXAMINER

PILLAI, NAMITHA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/523,044

Applicant(s)

CHIHARA ET AL.

Examiner

Namitha Pillai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 5-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 16 December 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: there are inconsistencies in regards to the use of the dash in “input-output field” and its similar form “input/output field” (claim 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 1, 9 and 10 disclose storing the control name “as the control name of the output field or the input-output field, whichever is relevant”. Such a statement is vague, confusing and/or redundant, especially when it has been clearly stated previously in the claim what the control name is referring to.

3. Claims 3, 5 and 8 recite the limitation “a control name” in regards to what the naming unit will specify. Proper antecedence has not been given to the “control name” previously recited in the claims. It is not clear whether the “control name” recited in claims 3, 5 and 8 are the same as the “control name” in claim 1 or a second “control name.” Claim 11 also has the same problem. These claims have not been amended and hence the 112 rejections remain.

Claim 7 depends from rejected claim 5 and includes all of the limitations of claim 5 thereby rendering this dependent claim indefinite.

Claims 3 and 5 also recites the limitation “a field character string”, “an input/output field” and “an output field” in regards to the control name. Proper antecedence has not been given to each of these terms, which have previously recited in the claims. It is not clear whether the “field character string”, “input/output field” and “output field” recited in claim 3 is the same as the those claim 1 or a second set of these components. Claim 11 also has the same problem.

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Claim 8 also recites the limitation “a GUI screen”. Proper antecedence has not been given to this term, which has been previously recited in the claims. It is not clear whether the “GUI screen” recited in claim 8 is the same as the “graphical user interface screen” of claim 1 or a second screen.

4. A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected as being indefinite for the use of alternative limitations (i.e., “adds specific character string to a registered control name or control name to be specified in such a way that the name may not be the same as an already registered control name”) is not permitted in the claims. The claims must be amended to include positive limitations, clearly reciting what applicant regards as the invention. In the present instance, claims 6 and 7 recite the broad recitation “control name to be specified in such a way that the name may not be the same as an already registered control name”, and the claims also recite, “adds a specific character string to a registered control name” which is the narrower statement of the range/limitation. These claims have not been amended and hence the rejection remains.

5. Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being of improper dependent form. Both claims are dependent on a cancelled claim 4. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Examiner assumes that claims 6 and 8 were intended to be dependent on claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

6. Claims 1, 3 and 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,061,516 (Yoshikawa et al.).

Referring to claims 1 and 9 Yoshikawa discloses a GUI screen generating apparatus by using a screen definition information generator (column 3, lines 14-17). This screen definition information generator can be interpreted as the extraction unit that is claimed in claims 1 and 9. Yoshikawa also discloses that the field information extracted by the screen definition generator is associated with an output field and an input-output field from the screen data of the character based user interface from which the screen definition generator has obtained the data (column 3, lines 45-48). Yoshikawa also discloses the display information setting generator (column 7, lines 18-21), which can be interpreted as the naming unit that is claimed in claims 1 and 9. The naming unit specifies the control name of the output field or the input-output field in a graphical user interface screen (Figure 7, reference number 91 and 92). This control name is based on a

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character string contained in the part associated with the output field of the field information (column 11, lines 29-40 and Figure 7, reference number 91). The screen definition information, which would include the control names of the output field or the input-output field, is registered in a memory unit (column 13, lines 3-5).

Referring to claims 3 and 5, Yoshikawa discloses that the information on the GUI screen is determined by the names of the data from the screen and the distinction of whether the data in question is input, output or both. See column 3, lines 44-48. Yoshikawa also discloses that the name of a field will also be based on its location on the screen and its neighboring fields. See Figures 3 and 4.

Referring to claims 6 and 7, Yoshikawa discloses that a predetermined fixed string of characters will be chosen (column 19, line 11). Yoshikawa also discloses that there will be a name of a field for identifying each individual field on a screen (column 19, lines 4-6).

Referring to claim 8, Yoshikawa discloses that for "the name of a screen or the name of a field, the string characters generally abides by a naming rule." See column 19, lines 35-38.

Referring to claim 10, Yoshikawa discloses a program, which will generate a GUI screen. See column 2, line 5. The screen definition information generator (column 3, lines 14-17) is the extraction unit that is claimed in claim 10. Yoshikawa also discloses that the field information extracted by the screen definition generator is associated with an output field and an input-output field from the screen data of the character based user interface from which the screen definition generator has obtained the data (column 3, lines 45-48). Yoshikawa also discloses that the information acquired from this screen definition information generator is used to set the field names of the GUI screen (column 7, lines 18-30). The naming unit specifies the control name of

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the output field or the input-output field in a graphical user interface screen (Figure 7, reference number 91 and 92). This control name is based on a character string contained in the part associated with the output field of the field information (column 11, lines 29-40 and Figure 7, reference number 91). The screen definition information, which would include the control names of the output field or the input-output field, is registered in a memory unit (column 13, lines 3-5).

Referring to claim 11, Yoshikawa discloses that the name of a field is based on the field character string. See column 6, lines 42-45. Yoshikawa also discloses that the information on the GUI screen is determined by the names of the data from the screen (column 3, lines 41-46).

Response to Claim Changes

7. The Examiner acknowledges the Applicant's amendment narrowing the scope of claims 1, 9 and 10. Instead of using dependent claims to further limit the invention, the Applicant has removed certain dependent claims and combined those limitations with independent claims 1, 9 and 10. However this change has failed to take into account the other dependent claims as stated in the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections. In addition, the amended claims are still rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being disclosed in a previous invention.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 12/16/2002 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

With respect to applicant's argument that Yoshikawa does not disclose a control name given to an output field or input-output field that is registered in memory. However Yoshikawa's invention does disclose a control name given to an output field or input-output field

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(Figure 7, reference number 91) that is registered in memory (column 13, lines 3-5). Hence Yoshikawa in fact does disclose a means for control name given to a field and this information then being registered in memory.

With respect to applicant's argument that the invention of Yoshikawa merely enables converting a screen display associated with a character based user interface (CUI) into a screen display associated with a graphical user interface (GUI). However, Yoshikawa invention discloses more than just merely converting the screen display information from a CUI to a GUI. As seen by the information of Figure 7 in Yoshikawa's disclosure and his discussion for rules concerning the naming of fields (column 11, lines 29-40), Yoshikawa's invention is concerned with the manner of naming the controls associated to input and input-output fields contained in a GUI screen.

By inspecting the field names (reference number 91) shown in Figure 7, Yoshikawa does disclose having control names based on information associated with the CUI screen display.

With respect to how the name of a field for a GUI screen is decided, Yoshikawa does discuss how such field names are chosen in column 11, lines 29-40.

With respect to applicant's argument that the control names in the present invention were mistaken as being displayed on the GUI screen or that claim 1 included possibly displaying a control name on a GUI screen. However, as is seen by Figures 4 and 7, Yoshikawa has made a clear distinction between what is shown on the screen and what is stored in memory. The screen display information, which includes the information shown in Figure 7, including the control names are stored in memory (column 13, lines 3-5).

Conclusion

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9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

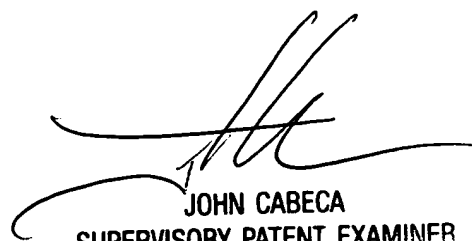
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (703) 305-7691. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7238 for regular communications and (703) 746-7240 for After Final Communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Namitha Pillai
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173
January 14, 2003


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